

ARALUEN BOTANIC PARK

207. Hon DONNA FARAGHER to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for the Environment:

I refer to concerns raised by the community and the Araluen Botanic Park Foundation regarding the proposed transfer of the park's management from the foundation to the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority.

- (1) Will the minister confirm whether the government intends to transfer the park's management from the foundation to the BGPA?
- (2) Has the BGPA board refused to negotiate a lease with the foundation; and, if so, why?
- (3) Will the minister support the foundation's proposal that it work in partnership with the BGPA through a lease and appropriate funding while maintaining its current role as manager of the park; and, if not, why not?

Hon SALLY TALBOT replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question. The Minister for the Environment has provided the following response.

- (1) Yes. It is proposed that ownership of the Araluen Botanic Park be transferred from the Western Australian Planning Commission to the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority on 1 July 2009.
- (2) Yes. The Araluen Botanic Park is currently vested with the WAPC. Should a change in ownership occur, the BGPA board is of the view that it is best placed to manage the ABP.
- (3) The minister is advised that the BGPA has consistently indicated that it will consult with the community on the ongoing management of the ABP. The minister is supportive of this consultation and dialogue.